

North Dakota Interagency Coordinating Council
Early Intervention Services Subcommittee
6-3-09

Present: Arlene De la Paz, Roxane Romanick, Deb Balsdon, Jill Staudinger, Kimm Sickler, Holly Major

Minutes from 2-12-09 were reviewed – no changes were recommended.

The subcommittee had a discussion about the additional federal grants that will be written around the state regarding Early Head Start (EHS). There are expansion dollars available and programs that have not had programs in the past will be writing for additional money to serve birth to 3. There was discussion about how many of the Early Intervention programs that have not worked with EHS may need some additional guidance on partnering with these programs. Deb noted that the newly authorized IDEA statute does address the need for MOU's with state Headstart grantees. It was discussed that a template may be helpful to offer some guidance from the state office on developing MOU's.

Deb reported that the 2009 Part C application has been re-issued for public comment again and the deadline for comment is July 15th. Verbal comment can be given on Monday, June 8th from 10:00 – 12:00 via the ND HSC Polycom system. They have received one comment regarding adequate funding for the Infant Development programs. The application is the same as the 2008 application with some changes to the funding portion of the application. Program such as Right Track and Experienced Parent have remained intact. Part C is no longer providing funding for the Family to Family contract at UND. Interested parties can find the comment detail and application on the North Dakota Early Intervention website.

Discussion about the additional funding that Part C received from the Americans Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA). The funding needs to be obligated by September, 2011 and liquidated by December, 2011. The information from the department is that money needs to be used for creating infrastructure vs. creating new or additional projects that will require ongoing funding that is not guaranteed. Presently the department is looking at funding a switch to a web-based data collection system for the EI system. The department is developing request for proposals to complete this work. Other ideas: personnel development (i.e. Pivotal Response training, offering CEED courses online, etc.), web air cards to be able to hook into data system from parents' homes, issuing funding to the regions to address needed additional staffing due to personnel development, needs for higher ed and/or associations.

Deb reported on the waiver changes that have occurred do to the waiver renewal in April, 2009:

- Families in the traditional waiver can now self-direct some services that were not available prior, such as transportation, equipment, environmental supports, behavioral consultation.
- New service for parenting supports for parents who could be eligible for DD Program Management services. These services can start prenatally.
- Another new services is the extended home health care – this is available for those individuals that have hit their maximum allowance under the state plan and continue to need these services.

Corrected and Approved on 9-9-10

- The waiver renewal outlines guidance about duplication of services; therefore we cannot start services to individuals living in institutions. ID programs cannot duplicate services while a child is in the hospital for a period of time.
- Case Managers are now Program Managers.

Deb noted that training is being planned for DD Program Managers and Experienced Parents to assist them with providing services to children who are hospitalized when they are referred. These will primarily be children residing in NICU's. Innovis Medical Center in Fargo currently has a March of Dimes family support coordinator working on the NICU there and there is work happening to coordinate with them.

Deb reported that currently the state office is working on putting an EI policy handbook on the DHS server that will include all of the policies and procedures for Early Intervention.

Discussion about what's occurring with autism supports in North Dakota. Children Special Health Care Services will be holding an autism clinic in Jamestown and Minot. The autism waiver will also contain an evaluation and diagnosis component to it when initiated. Discussion about how Early Intervention will interface with the autism waiver and perhaps how EI may be the provider of service.

Review of Part C Priorities Document – see attached.

Next meeting will be held Wednesday, September 9, 2009 from 5:30 – 9:00 p.m. (CST)